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LETTER DATED 21 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the provisions of the final document of the December 1996 Lisbon Summit of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) which pertain to the situation in Georgia.

May I ask your kind assistance in circulating the text of the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council, in view of its importance in particular in the context of the forthcoming deliberations on the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia, by the Council.

(Signed) Peter CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Lisbon Summit Declaration

Paragraph 20

20. We reaffirm our utmost support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders. We condemn the ethnic cleansing resulting in mass destruction and forcible expulsion of the predominantly Georgian population in Abkhazia. Destructive acts of separatists, including obstruction of the return of refugees and displaced persons and the decision to hold elections in Abkhazia and in the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, undermine the positive efforts undertaken to promote the political settlement of these conflicts. We are convinced that the international community, in particular the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), with the participation of the Russian Federation as a facilitator, should continue to contribute actively to the search for a peaceful settlement.